

REMARKS

Applicant's attorney thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration given to this application. For convenience, the matters raised in the Office action are discussed below in the same order as presented by the Examiner.

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been corrected as requested by the Examiner.

The specification has been amended to insert headings and a brief description of the drawings as customarily included in US applications.

The objection to the disclosure at page 3, lines 3 - 4 is overcome by cancellation of the paragraph.

The rejections of the claims under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, are overcome by amendment. For the Examiner's convenience, the corrections are briefly commented on below.

In claim 1, antecedent basis has been provided for the recitations of "the course", "position" and "the direction". In addition, the structural inter-relationship between the control means and other elements is more clearly described with the rotating rods engaging the pressing belt "to drivingly engage and drive lateral areas of the pressing belt to control the course of the pressing

belt". This latter recitation is particularly supported in the last paragraph at page 7 of the specification and prior method claim 10. Claim 1 has also been amended to make clear that the control means include the positioning means to position the rotating rods.

The amendments of claims 1 and 4 make clear that the same positioning means is being recited in both claims.

With regard to claim 4, proper antecedent basis has been provided for the shafts about which the rotating rods form a revolving belt.

Claim 5 has been substantially rewritten in order to clarify the interaction of the pivoting rods and the pressing belts.

Claim 8 has been amended to independent form by adding all of the limitations in amended claim 1. Also, the language of claim 8 has been amended to make clear that the gear wheels engage the revolving chains to which the rotating rods are laterally attached. Further, these are the same chains previously referred to in the claim.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite "a pressing area" and thereby provides antecedent basis for the recitation of "the pressing area" in claim 10.

The rejections under 35 USC 112 are overcome for the foregoing reasons.

As noted above, claim 8 has been amended to independent form and to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112. Accordingly, claim 8 is allowable as indicated by the Examiner.

It is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-2, 4-6 and 10 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 19931175 to Graf.

Initially, is emphasized that all of the claims presently of record have been amended to recite control of the pressing belt based upon chain length determination in a system having relatively rotating rods laterally attached to revolving chains. Claim 1 provides "control means detecting stretched chain links and controlling the position of the rotating rods dependent on the length of individual chain links of the chain." The amended claims are not disclosed or suggested by Graf.

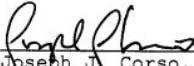
In Graf, the material to be pressed 4 engages a lower steel band 5 and an upper steel band 6. The steel bands 5, 6 are contacted by rods 12 driven through chain 26 via chain wheels 25 and motor drives 30. The alignment of the bands 5 and 6 is monitored by sensors 27 and a processor which provides output signals to the drives 30. Thus, determination of chain link stretching or length is not contemplated by Graf.

For the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is distinguished over Graf. Similarly, the claims depending from claim 1 are distinguished over Graf.

Pending claim 1, 2, 4 - 6, 8 and 10 are in condition for allowance and such action is requested.

If there are any additional fees required by this Amendment not covered by the enclosed check, or if no check is enclosed, please charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 16-0820, Order No. 38759.

Respectfully submitted,

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February 26, 2007